

REMARKS

Claim 18 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bunyan ('104) in view of Dauber ('671).

Claim 18 has been amended to claim the specific construction of the gasket material as "having an open cell foam base partially saturated with a silicone-free, polyurethane mix..." Neither of the cited references teaches or discloses this unique composition or structure; and, particularly, they do not teach placing this specific gasket material on an aircraft fuselage. Such aircraft gaskets are subject to repeated compression and thermal cycling and the elimination of silicone from the polyurethane mix avoids silicone leakage which adversely affects adhesion of gaskets on an aircraft fuselage.

The Applicants ask the Examiner to reconsider amended Claim 18. All other claims have been cancelled in this application, and the Applicants ask the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance on amended Claim 18.

Respectfully submitted,

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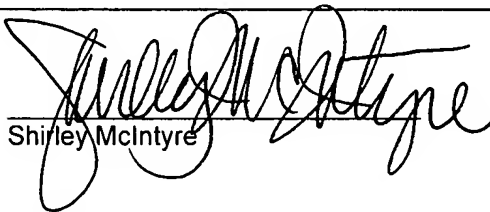
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Shirley McIntyre